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By-elections-MCA

MCA LEADERS WILL CLOSE RANKS WHEN IT COMES TO BY-ELECTIONS, SAYS DR LING

ALOR SETAR, July 14 (Bernama) -- The differences among the MCA leaders will not dampen the party's efforts to win the voters' support in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state by-elections, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the differences were a matter of the past after the party implemented a peace plan some months ago.

"MCA leaders will usually be united when it comes to delivering the seat for the BN (Barisan Nasional). We may have some differences but when you say anti-PAS, anti-terrorism, yes, we are united as we did in the Indera Kayangan and Ketari by-elections.

"In Anak Bukit and Pendang the same thing will happen as we are united for the BN," he told reporters after visiting the Anak Bukit MCA by-election operations centre in Pekan Anak Bukit, here.

Datuk Othman Abdul (BN) will face Dr Mohamed Hayati Othman (PAS) in Pendang while Datuk Zakaria Said (BN) will take on Haji Amiruddin Hamzah (PAS) in Anak Bukit in the by-elections on July 18.

Dr Ling said that all the MCA leaders and members had closed ranks to support the plan forwarded by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The differences between MCA leaders dubbed as "Team A" and "Team B" were among the issues raised by the opposition in their campaigning in Chinese community areas in both constituencies over the past few days.

Asked on the feedback he had received from the Chinese community, Dr Ling said the Chinese voters in both constituencies were likely to reject PAS since they wanted to progress with a progressive government.

He said that other states under the BN were progressing better than Kelantan and Terengganu, the two states under the PAS government.

"As far as the Chinese are concerned, they want good education and development which are very important factors to progress," he said.

Earlier, Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, visited the Kuala Kedah Marina Harbour project in Seberang Kota, Kuala Kedah.

The RM25 million project, expected to be completed end of this year, will have 80 bays and a clubhouse to cater to the yacht tourism industry in the state.

Dr Ling said the government was working towards building more such facilities all over the country such as in Port Dickson, Tanjung Pengelih, Melaka and Kuantan.

-- BERNAMA

AT KHY JK